

# the condition of education 2007



## INDICATOR 8

### Past and Projected Undergraduate Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Undergraduate Education

## Past and Projected Undergraduate Enrollments

*Women are projected to make up 60 percent of undergraduate enrollment in 2016.*

Total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions has generally increased over the past three and a half decades. Enrollments are projected to continue increasing through 2016, albeit at a slower rate than from 1995 to 2005. These increases have been accompanied by changes in the proportions of students who are female, students who attend full time, and students who attend 4-year institutions (see supplemental table 8-1). The number of students enrolled part time and full time, the number of students at 2- and 4-year institutions, and the number of male and female undergraduates are all projected to reach a new high each year from 2006 through 2016.

Since 1970, women's undergraduate enrollment increased more than three times as fast as men's and surpassed men's enrollment in 1978. Women made up 42 percent of undergraduate enrollment in 1970, some 50 percent in 1977, and 57 percent in 2005. From 2006 to 2016, both men's and women's undergraduate enrollments are projected to increase, but less than they did from 1995 to 2005. Women's undergraduate enrollment is projected to continue growing faster than men's enrollment, and women are projected to make up 60 percent of enrollment in 2016.

Undergraduate students are more likely to be enrolled full time than part time, a pattern that is expected to continue. In the 1970s, part-time undergraduate enrollment increased more than five times as fast as full-time undergraduate enrollment. During the 1980s, growth slowed for both groups, while from 1995 to 2005 full-time enrollment grew more than three times as fast as part-time enrollment. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is expected to continue growing more rapidly than part-time enrollment through 2016.

Over the past 36 years, undergraduate enrollment has been larger at 4-year institutions than at 2-year institutions. During this period, enrollment at 2-year institutions rapidly increased in the 1970s (by 82 percent vs. 14 percent for 4-year institutions), slowed in the 1980s and 1990s, and fluctuated from 2000 through 2005. Aside from a slowing in the early 1990s, enrollment has grown fairly steadily at 4-year institutions since 1970. Between 2006 and 2016, enrollment at 4-year colleges is expected to grow more rapidly than enrollment at 2-year colleges (17 vs. 12 percent).

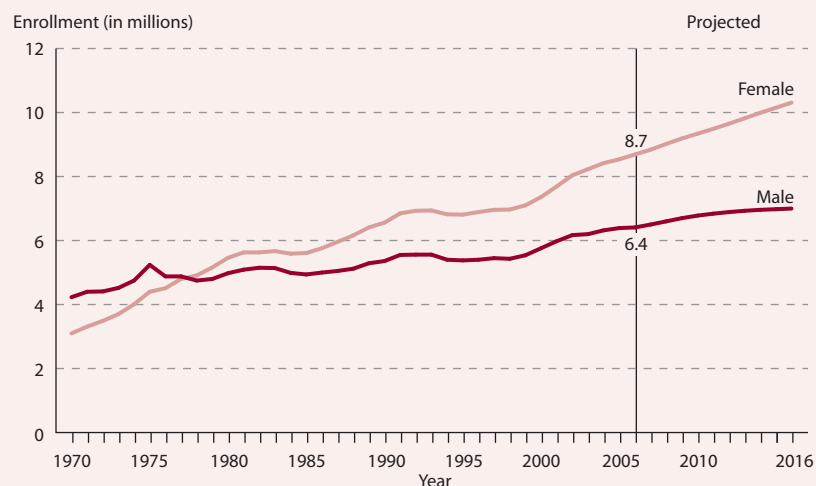
NOTE: Projections are based on data through 2005 and middle alternative assumptions concerning the economy. For more information, see NCES 2007-038. See supplemental note 3 for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See supplemental note 9 for more information about the classification of postsecondary education institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2006* (NCES 2007-017), table 190, and Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2016* (NCES 2007-038), table 19; data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1970–1985 Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), “Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities” surveys; and 1986–2005 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, “Fall Enrollment Survey” (IPEDS-EF:86–99), and Spring 2001 through Spring 2006.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 3, 9  
Supplemental Table 8-1

**UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT: Total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions with projections, by sex: Fall 1970–2016**



## Past and Projected Undergraduate Enrollments

**Table 8-1. Total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions with projections, by sex, attendance status, and level of institution: Fall 1970–2016**

Fall of year	Total	Sex		Attendance status		Level of institution	
		[In thousands]					
		Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time	4-year	2-year
1970	7,376	4,254	3,122	5,280	2,096	5,057	2,319
1971	7,743	4,418	3,325	5,512	2,231	5,164	2,579
1972	7,941	4,429	3,512	5,488	2,453	5,185	2,756
1973	8,261	4,538	3,723	5,580	2,681	5,249	3,012
1974	8,798	4,765	4,033	5,726	3,072	5,394	3,404
1975	9,679	5,257	4,422	6,169	3,510	5,709	3,970
1976	9,429	4,902	4,527	6,030	3,399	5,546	3,883
1977	9,717	4,897	4,820	6,094	3,623	5,674	4,043
1978	9,691	4,766	4,925	5,967	3,724	5,663	4,028
1979	9,998	4,821	5,178	6,080	3,919	5,781	4,217
1980	10,475	5,000	5,475	6,362	4,113	5,948	4,526
1981	10,755	5,109	5,646	6,449	4,306	6,039	4,716
1982	10,825	5,170	5,655	6,484	4,341	6,053	4,772
1983	10,846	5,158	5,688	6,514	4,332	6,123	4,723
1984	10,618	5,007	5,611	6,348	4,270	6,087	4,531
1985	10,597	4,962	5,635	6,320	4,277	6,066	4,531
1986	10,798	5,018	5,780	6,352	4,446	6,118	4,680
1987	11,046	5,068	5,978	6,463	4,584	6,270	4,776
1988	11,317	5,138	6,179	6,642	4,674	6,441	4,875
1989	11,743	5,311	6,432	6,841	4,902	6,592	5,151
1990	11,959	5,380	6,579	6,976	4,983	6,719	5,240
1991	12,439	5,571	6,868	7,221	5,218	6,787	5,652
1992	12,537	5,582	6,954	7,243	5,293	6,814	5,722
1993	12,538	5,583	6,955	7,244	5,293	6,972	5,566
1994	12,263	5,422	6,840	7,169	5,094	6,733	5,530
1995	12,232	5,401	6,831	7,145	5,086	6,739	5,493
1996	12,327	5,421	6,906	7,299	5,028	6,764	5,563
1997	12,451	5,469	6,982	7,419	5,032	6,845	5,606
1998	12,437	5,446	6,991	7,539	4,898	6,948	5,489
1999	12,681	5,559	7,122	7,735	4,946	7,089	5,593
2000	13,155	5,778	7,377	7,923	5,232	7,207	5,948
2001	13,716	6,004	7,711	8,328	5,388	7,465	6,251
2002	14,257	6,192	8,065	8,734	5,523	7,728	6,529
2003	14,474	6,224	8,250	9,035	5,439	7,981	6,493
2004	14,781	6,340	8,441	9,284	5,496	8,235	6,546
2005	14,964	6,409	8,555	9,446	5,518	8,476	6,488
<b>Projected<sup>1</sup></b>							
2006	15,136	6,430	8,706	9,610	5,526	8,509	6,627
2007	15,386	6,522	8,864	9,828	5,558	8,671	6,714
2008	15,659	6,622	9,036	10,062	5,596	8,849	6,810
2009	15,929	6,720	9,209	10,294	5,636	9,028	6,902
2010	16,162	6,799	9,364	10,497	5,665	9,191	6,972
2011	16,376	6,863	9,513	10,681	5,695	9,337	7,039
2012	16,576	6,911	9,665	10,847	5,729	9,468	7,108
2013	16,788	6,950	9,837	11,019	5,769	9,600	7,188
2014	16,995	6,984	10,012	11,192	5,803	9,727	7,269
2015	17,172	7,002	10,171	11,347	5,825	9,836	7,337
2016	17,354	7,024	10,330	11,506	5,848	9,947	7,407

<sup>1</sup> Projections based on data through 2005 and middle alternative assumptions concerning the economy. See NCES 2007-038 for more information on projections.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See *supplemental note 9* for more information about classification of postsecondary education institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), *Digest of Education Statistics, 2006* (NCES 2007-017), tables 176 and 185, and Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2016* (NCES 2007-038), tables 16, 18, and 19; data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1970–1985 Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), “Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities” surveys; and 1986–2005 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, “Fall Enrollment Survey” (IPEDS-EF:86–99), and Spring 2001 through Spring 2006.